

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 CIAE-00

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PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

/088 W

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O R 080612Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0998

INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2769

SALISBURY: FROM SEITZ

E.O.\* 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, UK, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MEETING WITH OFFICIALS

1. SUMMARY: WE WENT OVER THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION ITEM BY ITEM WITH RHODESIAN OFFICIALS ON NOVEMBER 5. THEY CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT AN AGREED CONSTITUTION SHOULD COME BEFORE A CEASEFIRE AND THAT THE FINAL CONSTITUTION MUST BE INTRODUCED TO THE RHODESIAN PARLIAMENT. THEY OBJECTED STRONGLY TO A UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE AND TO THE METHOD OF CHOOSING SPEC

ially ELECTED MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

2. WE SAT AROUND THE CABINET TABLE IN MILTON HOUSE FOR FOUR HOURS ON SATURDAY MORNING WITH JACK GAYLARD, PETER CLAYPOLE, CONFIDENTIAL

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DAVID YOUNG AND GEORGE SMITH. THE RHODESIAN SEPTEMBER 7 COMMENTARY ON THE WHITE PAPER SERVED AS AN AGENDA. THERE WAS PROGRESS AND EVEN AGREEMENT -- SUBJECT TO CONSULTATIONS WITH THE OTHER PARTIES -- ON DIVERSE POINTS IN THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION. EXCHANGES ON SOME ISSUES WERE INCONCLUSIVE; SOME MINOR ITEMS BECAME ALMOST METAPHYSICAL; AND OTHERS, SUCH AS UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, BARELY SURFACED AT

ALL.

3. GAYLARD AND CLAYPOLE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS. REVERSING THE LINE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, THEY SAID AGREEMENT TO A CONSTITUTION MUST PRECEDE AGREEMENT TO A CEASEFIRE. THEY ALSO INSISTED THAT WHILE A SECOND, MORE DETAILED WHITE PAPER WOULD BE SATISFACTORY FOR A REFERENDUM, THE FINAL, LEGAL DOCUMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE RHODESIAN PARLIAMENT. (I LATER SAID TO CLAYPOLE THAT THIS SEEMED AN UNNECESSARY COMPLICATION; HE AGREED BUT CLAIMED THAT POLITICIANS HERE FELT POWER SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED VOLUNTARILY AND "LEGALLY".)

4. THE RHODESIANS SAID THEIR GOVERNMENT ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO A BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE, WITH PART OF THE SENATE RESERVED FOR CHIEFS, PART TO BE NOMINATED BY THE LOWER HOUSE, AND PART TO BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT. THIS CHAMBER COULD NOT VETO LEGISLATION BUT COULD DELAY ENACTMENT FOR SIX MONTHS. GRAHAM ANSWERED THAT THE NATIONALISTS WERE UNANIMOUS IN FAVORING A SINGLE CHAMBER BUT WE WOULD PUT THE RHODESIAN CASE TO THEM.

5. AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF WHETHER 120 MP'S COULD FIT INTO SALISBURY'S PRESENT ASSEMBLY HOUSE, GAYLARD SAID THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBERS WERE UNACCEPTABLE. HE CLAIMED THAT WHITE RHODESIAN WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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SAY THEY HAD BEEN MISLED BY THE PROPOSALS WHEN THEY DISCOVERED THAT WHITES WOULD HAVE ONLY TEN NOT TWENTY SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBERS. TEN MEMBERS DID NOT REMOTELY MEET THE NEED FOR SAFEGUARDS. HE INSISTED THAT EVEN THESE TEN WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE OF WHITE INTERESTS UNLESS THEY WERE DIRECTLY ELECTED FROM THE PRESENT QUALIFIED POOL OF VOTERS. CLAYPOLE ADDED THAT A DIRECT ELECTRICION PROVISION WOULD BE FAIR AND WOULD ONLY LAST EIGHT YEARS ANYWAY. GRAHAM SAID HE WOULD RAISE THIS WITH LONDON BUT WAS NOT HOPEFUL. WE ALSO ARGUED THAT THE NATIONALISTS WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY MECHANISM WHICH SEEMED TO THEM DESIGNED TO CHECK THE WILL OF A PARLIAMENT ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE.

6. COMMENT: WE MEET AGAIN WITH THIS GROUP ON MONDAY. HOW CONSTRUCTIVE THAT DISCUSSION MIGHT BE WILL DEPEND TO SOME EXTENT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CARVER-SMITH MEETING. A MORE DETAILED REPORT OF WHERE THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS STAND WILL COME LATER.  
NORLAND

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## Message Attributes

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